

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Jim Freid, et al.

Serial No.: not yet assigned  
*(Continuation of USSN 10/015,206; filed November 19, 2001)*

Filed: December 15, 2003

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
STABILIZING THE HUMAN SPINE WITH  
A BONE PLATE

Attorney Docket No.: 5259-03700USC2

Group Art Unit: not yet assigned

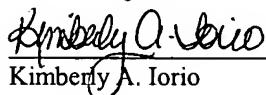
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Kimberly A. Iorio

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination on the merits of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments and request their entry into the record.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.